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ALIENS™

Based on characters and situations from the Twentieth Century Fox motion picture.

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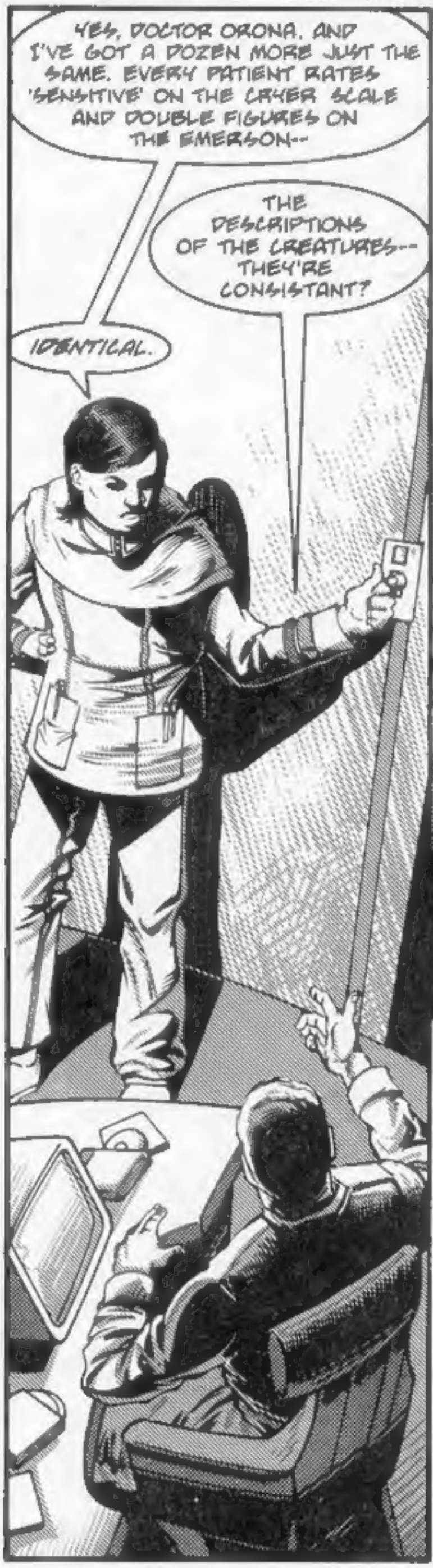
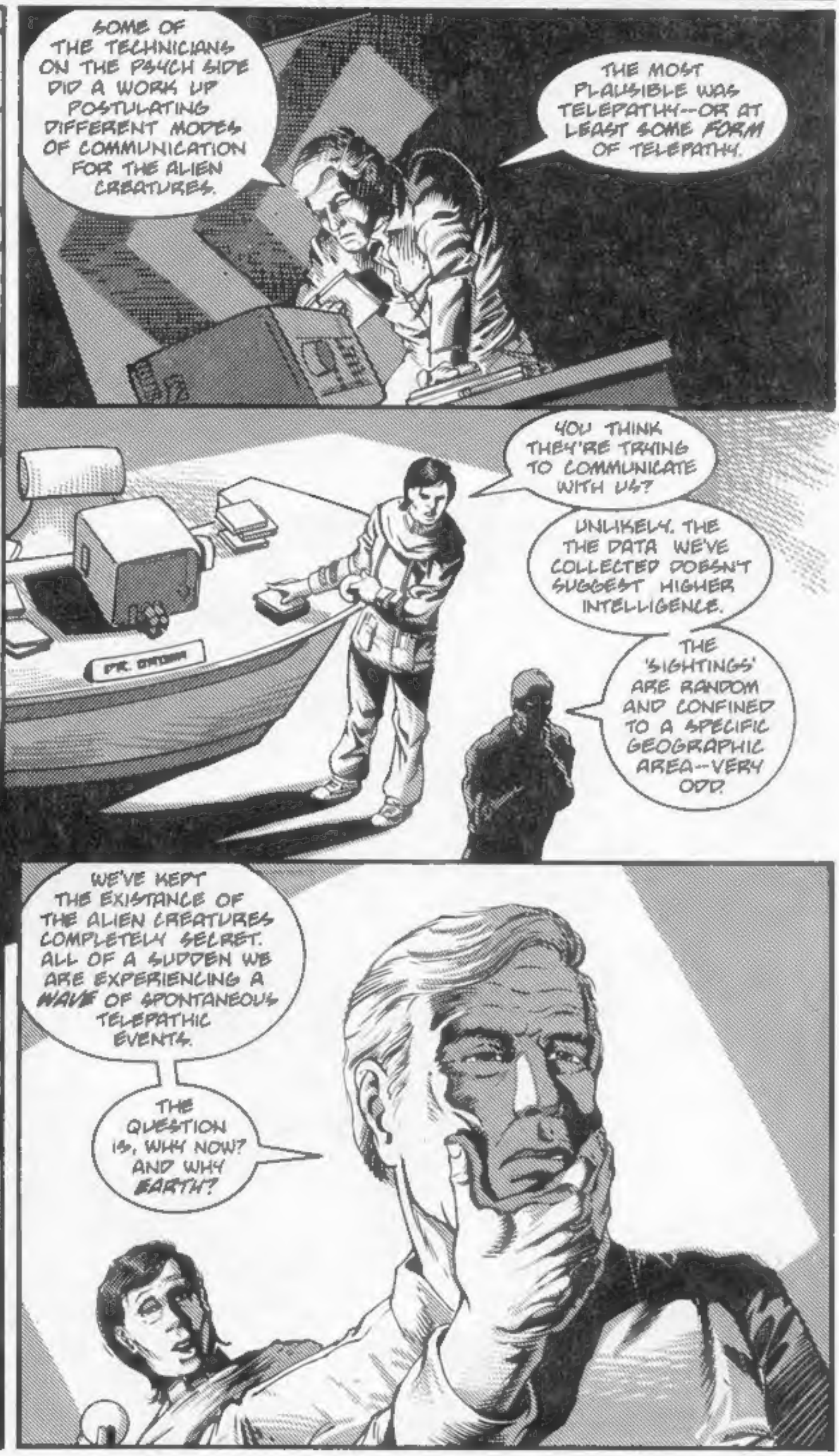
Dr. Ranier: Start wherever you'd like.
Patient Heerman: Okay. Okay. (pause) I'm with my mother. We're still in L.A. —
Dr. Ranier: Your mother died several years ago?
Patient Heerman: Cancer. (pause) We're taking the Wilshire tube into downtown L.A. Right then I knew I was dreaming...I've never seen an empty tube.
Patient Heerman: All of the sudden, we hear this loud—scraping sound —
Dr. Ranier: Scraping? How do you mean?
Patient Heerman: Like...like fingernails ripping fabric. (pause) Then, suddenly, the car stops —
Patient Heerman: Something was trying to...get in. I pounded on the door, hoping someone would hear us—
Patient Heerman: Then these—things started to—claw into the car. I ran to my mother and she made this sick, bubbling sound, deep in her chest—
Patient Heerman: It was just a stupid nightmare, right? Right?

Dr. Morgan: What happened after the television came on?
Patient Culp: First, there was only distortion—but then something started to—
Patient Culp: — come at me, from inside the screen —
Patient Duncan: I must have dosed off. The next thing I knew, the stewardess was standing next to me. I remember thinking that she reminded me of someone...
Dr. Frankel: Who?
Patient Duncan: (pause) It's going to sound funny, but—my mother.
Patient Duncan: All at once, these teeth—they...it ripped right through her chest—like it had been inside her the whole time —
Patient Lockwood: I kept screaming for my Mommy, but she wasn't there. Just the monster—coming closer and closer —

Patient Lockwood: It was shiny and wet and I think it wanted to kill me —
End transcript. Copy 2.3a2, Dr. Waidslaw Orona, Civilian Advisor, C.M.C.
FASCINATING ALL THESE REPORTS ARE FROM WITHIN A FIFTY MILE RADIUS.


YES, DOCTOR ORONA. AND I'VE GOT A DOZEN MORE JUST THE SAME. EVERY PATIENT RATES 'SENSITIVE' ON THE CRYER SCALE AND DOUBLE FIGURES ON THE EMERSON--
THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CREATURES-- THEY'RE CONSISTANT?
IDENTICAL.


SOME OF THE TECHNICIANS ON THE PSYCH SIDE DID A WORK UP POSTULATING DIFFERENT MODES OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE ALIEN CREATURES.
THE MOST PLAUSIBLE WAS TELEPATHY--OR AT LEAST SOME FORM OF TELEPATHY.
YOU THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH US?
UNLIKELY. THE THE DATA WE'VE COLLECTED DOESN'T SUGGEST HIGHER INTELLIGENCE.
THE 'SIGHTINGS' ARE RANDOM AND CONFINED TO A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREA--VERY ODD.
WE'VE KEPT THE EXISTANCE OF THE ALIEN CREATURES COMPLETELY SECRET. ALL OF A SUDDEN WE ARE EXPERIENCING A WAVE OF SPONTANEOUS TELEPATHIC EVENTS.
THE QUESTION IS, WHY NOW? AND WHY EARTH?

"MOTHER! WHERE ARE YOU?

"OH JESUS. IT HURTS ALL OVER. I'M SCARED."

HE'S COMING OUT OF IT.

BP IS SLIGHTLY ELEVATED, HEART RATE AND RESPIRATION NORMAL. I SHOW NO MOVEMENT FROM THE PARASITE IT APPEARS DORMANT.

YOUR NAME IS JAMES LIKOWSKI, YOU WERE CAPTAIN OF THE SPACE FREIGHTER, JUNKET. YOU ARE ON EARTH IN A QUARANTINED MEDICAL FACILITY

IF YOU'RE FEELING UP TO IT. WE'LL RELEASE YOU FROM THE STRAPS.

WHY AREN'T I DEAD?

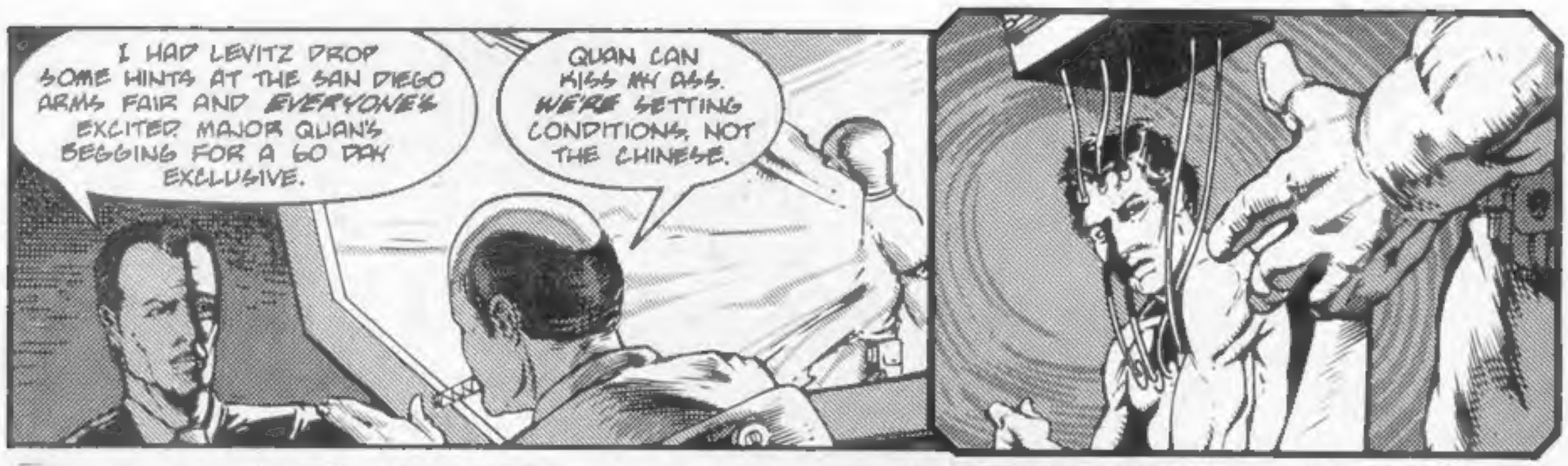
BIONATIONAL BN

PLEASE. COULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED? I WANT TO SEE MY WIFE-- PLEASE--
HE LOOKS NORMAL ENOUGH.
HELL, HE'S WORTH BILLIONS. I WISH EVERYONE WERE THAT 'NORMAL.'

THE CREATURE HAS LODGED ITSELF IN THE SUBJECT'S DIGESTIVE SYSTEM, DRAWING RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF BLOOD AND FLUIDS
NEVERTHELESS, IT IS GROWING AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE.
WHAT ABOUT THE PILOT? DOES HE KNOW?

THERE'S BEEN SOME--DISCUSSION--ON THAT POINT.
ETHICAL QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED REGARDING THE PROPRIETY OF INFORMING THE SUBJECT, CONSIDERING THE ULTIMATE-- PROGNOSIS.
AND YOU? WHAT DO YOU THINK, BYNER?

WE HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN UTTERLY NEW ALIEN LIFEFORM. REACTIONS OF THE HOST COULD BE IMPORTANT.
OF COURSE, IN THAT CASE, HE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW.
THEN TELL HIM.


I HAD LEVITZ DROP SOME HINTS AT THE SAN DIEGO ARMS FAIR AND EVERYONE'S EXCITED. MAJOR QUAN'S BEGGING FOR A 60 DAY EXCLUSIVE.
QUAN CAN KISS MY ASS. WE'RE SETTING CONDITIONS, NOT THE CHINESE.

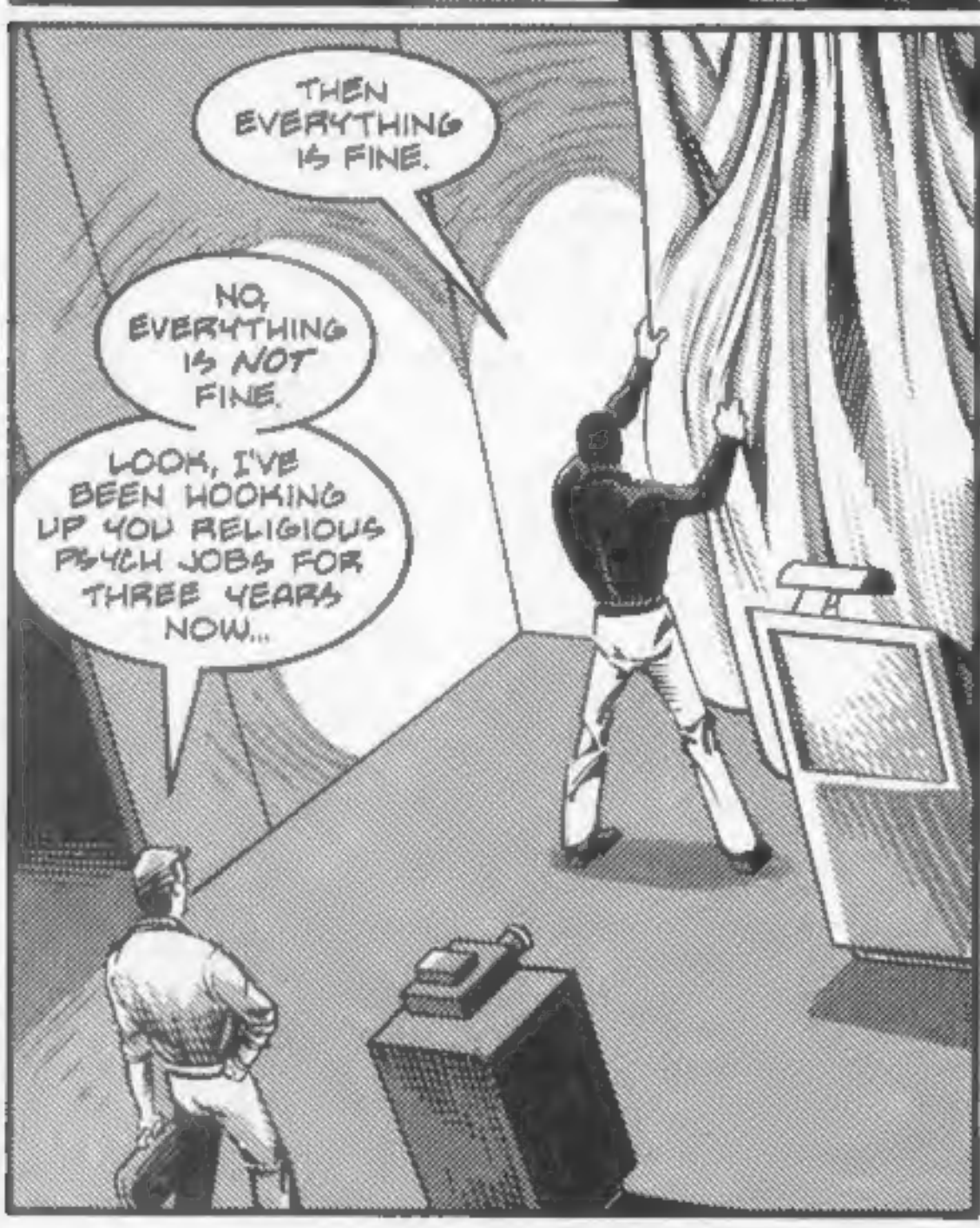
SO WHEN DOES BYNER THINK WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW?
COUPLE OF DAYS-- 72 HOURS, TOPS.
JESUS, YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT ME FOR HOURS. IS THAT ALL YOU WANT TO DO?
I'M SORRY. DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
NO-- I MEAN IT'S YOUR MONEY.
IT'S MY MONEY.

WOMEN ARE BLESSED. THEY KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE JOINED WITH ANOTHER LIFE--
--TO SHARE THEMSELVES SELFLESSLY. IT MUST BE WONDER-FUL.
YEAH. WONDERFUL. MY BACK'S KILLING ME.
C'MON, BABE, YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL WEIRD. ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT SOMETHING?
YES. I WANT TO KNOW HOW IT FEELS.

SALVAJE! WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?
STUDYING.

YEAH? WELL, STUDY THIS.
A COUPLE OF GOVERNMENT SUITS DROPPED BY THE SHOP TODAY. IT SEEMS THEY'RE REAL INTERESTED IN CHANNEL 2393.
WHAT DID YOU TELL THEM?

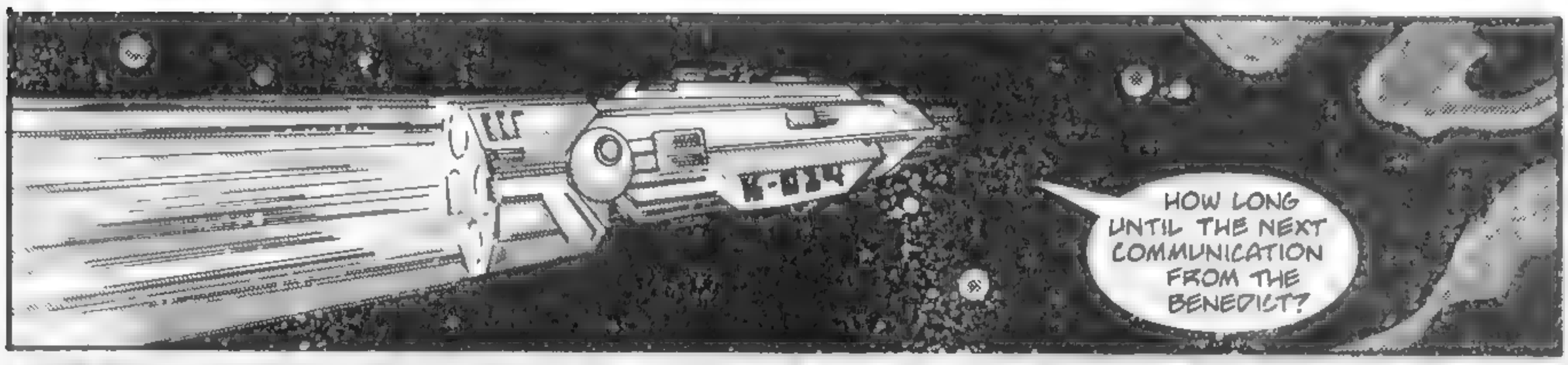
I DIDN'T TELL THEM SHIT. IF THEY KNEW I WAS HOOKING UP ILLEGALS THEY'D PULL MY LICENSE AND I'D LOSE ALL MY MILITARY CONTRACTS.


THEN EVERYTHING IS FINE.
NO, EVERYTHING IS NOT FINE.
LOOK, I'VE BEEN HOOKING UP YOU RELIGIOUS PSYCH JOBS FOR THREE YEARS NOW...

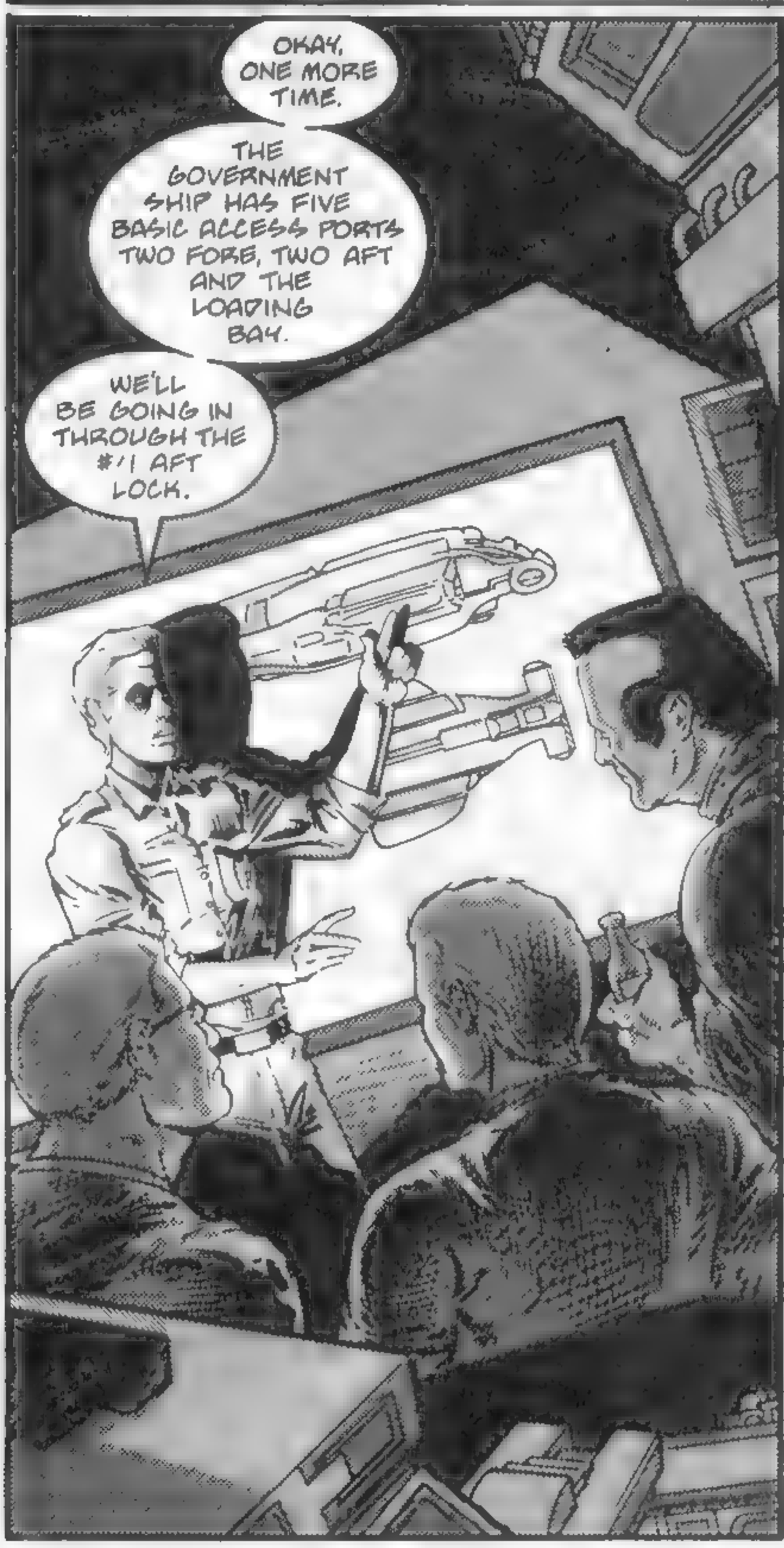
AND I'VE NEVER HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE FCC, COPS OR ANYBODY ELSE...
UNTIL NOW.

DAMN IT, SALVAJE-- WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?

THE MESSIAH. THE IMMACULATE INCUBATION. GOD.
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! I'M THROUGH, SALVAJE! I'M NOT RISKING--
RIGHT? YOU TALK TO ME OF RISK?
AGGGH-- YOU'RE CRAZY--!
BOMP!
DON'T BE AFRAID OF HIM. BELIEVE IN HIM. WE WILL CONTINUE THE MESSAGE AND FIND THE OTHERS WHO'VE SEEN THE VISION.
LOOK AT HIM!
YOU'RE NOTHING, I'M NOTHING! ONLY VESSELS, HERE TO SERVE THE TRUE MESSIAH...
...GLORIFIED IN HAVING BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE ULTIMATE COMMUNION.
THE BROADCASTS WILL CONTINUE DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE GOVERNMENT BE AFRAID OF ME.
NO!


K-034
HOW LONG UNTIL THE NEXT COMMUNICATION FROM THE BENEDICT?

ANOTHER HOUR. WE'RE ZEROED ON THEIR LOCAL ANTENNA. WE *SHOULD* BE ABLE TO GET A CLEAR TRANSMISSION.
GOOD KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. THEY'RE LOADED WITH D.S. SENSORS--
--DON'T WANT THEM TO SPOT US UNTIL *AFTER* WE GO THROUGH GRAVITY BURN.


OKAY, ONE MORE TIME.
THE GOVERNMENT SHIP HAS FIVE BASIC ACCESS PORTS TWO FORE, TWO AFT AND THE LOADING BAY.
WE'LL BE GOING IN THROUGH THE #1 AFT LOCK.

YOU'LL ALL HAVE LOW LEVEL BLASTERS. BE CAREFUL.
MILITARY SHIPS ARE ARMORED, BUT AN UNLUCKY SHOT COULD STILL RUPTURE THE HULL.
KASHUNK
SAVE THE GUNS FOR *SOFT* TARGETS-- INTERNAL SYSTEMS, ELECTRONICS, CREW.
WE'LL HOLD THE CREW PRISONER UNTIL WE REACH THE ALIEN HOMEWORLD.
ONCE WE'RE THROUGH WE WILL PURGE THE MILITARY COMPUTERS AND DESTROY THE SHIP.
NO SURVIVORS OF COURSE.

I PULLED NEAT OUT OF THE ASTEROID CARGO HOLD A HOURS BEFORE THEY CAME

I LOOKED LIKE THE STRUCTURE WAS ABOUT TO COME THOUGH IT WAS

I THOUGHT SCRAM FOR HER

ATMOSPHERE MOVE ABOUT AS WELL

I TOLD THE BASE COMMANDER YOU WERE UNRELIABLE, HICKS BUT THIS—THIS IS *INSANITY!*

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING? DO YOU THINK AT ALL?

I OFFER NO EXCUSES SIR. I DO WHAT...

NO EXCUSES! OH, THAT'S *VERY* MANLY. MAYBE YOU COULD TRY AN *EXPLANATION*--IF NOT FOR ME, THEN FOR THE MEN

EXPLAIN WHY YOU BROUGHT *EXTRA WEIGHT* ONTO A CAREFULLY BALANCED *GRAVITY DRIVE* SHIP.

IT'S NOT HIS FAULT--HE DID IT FOR *ME*--

OH, I UNDERSTAND *NOW!*

IT'S *NOT HIS FAULT!* YOU *FORCED* HIM TO STOW YOU ABOARD!

FORCED HIM TO JEOPARDIZE THE MISSION!

LEAVE HER OUT OF IT. IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY AND THE GRAVITY BALANCE IS NOMINAL.

I DUMPED 104 POUNDS OF THAT RASBERRY FLAVORED SHIT FROM THE SHIPS STORES JUST BEFORE WE TOOK OFF

SHUT UP, EASLEY

I *LIKED* THAT RASBERRY FLAVORED SHIT.

I SHOULD LOCK YOUR ASS UP AND KEEP YOU THERE UNTIL THE COURT MARTIAL.

I'M SURE THE MILITARY COURT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING HOW A TOP SECRET MILITARY VESSEL LEFT BASE..

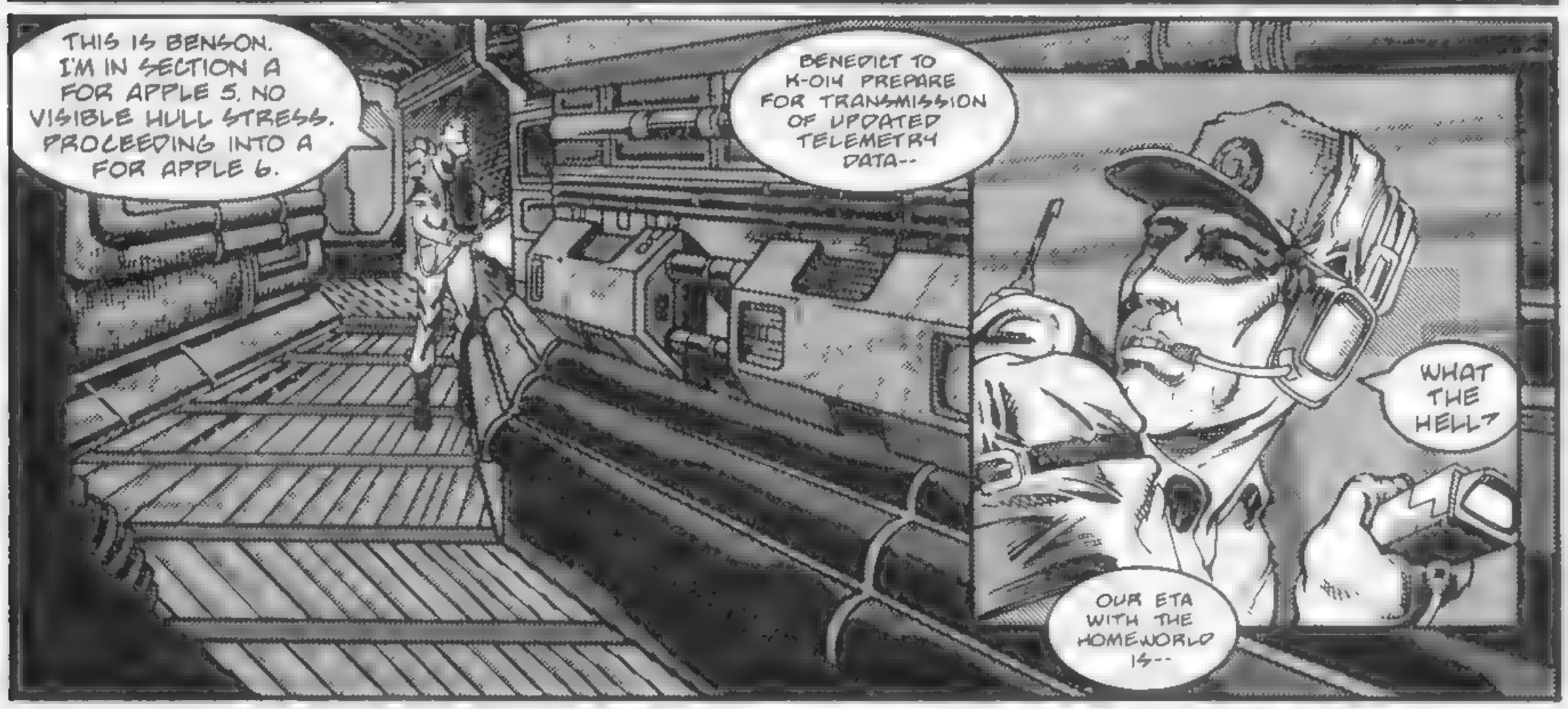
WITHOUT A THOROUGH INSPECTION BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER SIR.

BUT THE MISSION COMES AHEAD OF MY PERSONAL DESIRES. OKAY..

THE GIRL IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, HICKS WE'LL SETTLE THE REST WHEN WE RETURN TO EARTH

IF WE RETURN TO EARTH

MAN, I'VE NEVER SEEN STEPHENS SO PISSED.
I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH OUR CORPORAL HICKS. BUT WHAT THE HELL--THE GIRL'S CUTE.
BENSON, YOU IN?
NAW, I'VE GOT WALK-THROUGH. KEEP MY SEAT WARM.


THIS IS BENSON. I'M IN SECTION A FOR APPLE 5. NO VISIBLE HULL STRESS. PROCEEDING INTO A FOR APPLE 6.
BENEDICT TO K-014 PREPARE FOR TRANSMISSION OF UPDATED TELEMETRY DATA--
WHAT THE HELL?
OUR ETA WITH THE HOMEWORLD IS--

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
DO THE OTHERS KNOW--
THUNK!
ERGGGG--

AIRLOCK
SHHH
UHK--
UH--GHUHH--
GAAARRRGH--!
GRAAAH!
UKKK--
KAKKK--
32
AIRLOCK

SOMEBODY'S OPENING THE #H ARLOCK--!
CLICK
NODOKK-- UK--NO--
WHO THE HELL'S DOWN THERE?
THE AREA SHOULD BE CLEAR. CHRIST, WE'RE A COUPLE OF HOURS AWAY FROM GRAVITY BURN
NO-- AHHHGGGG--
EXTERIO AIRLOC
OPEN

GET ME A PICTURE, DAMMIT!
WHAT'S THE PROB--WHO THE HELL IS THAT?
DAMN!

I WANT TO LIVE...!
I WANT TO LIVE!
AGGGGHH!
AGHH!

THE GUARDS ARE DEAD. I WANT TO KILL MORE. I CAN HEAR ALARMS. DON'T CARE

RIIING! RIIING! RIIING!

CAN'T CARE

GOT TO GET OUTSIDE. I WANT TO FEEL THE SUN

POW POW POW

URGHHH!

HOT OUTSIDE. WET WITH HUMIDITY.

GET OUT OF THE CAR!

OH MY GOD...!

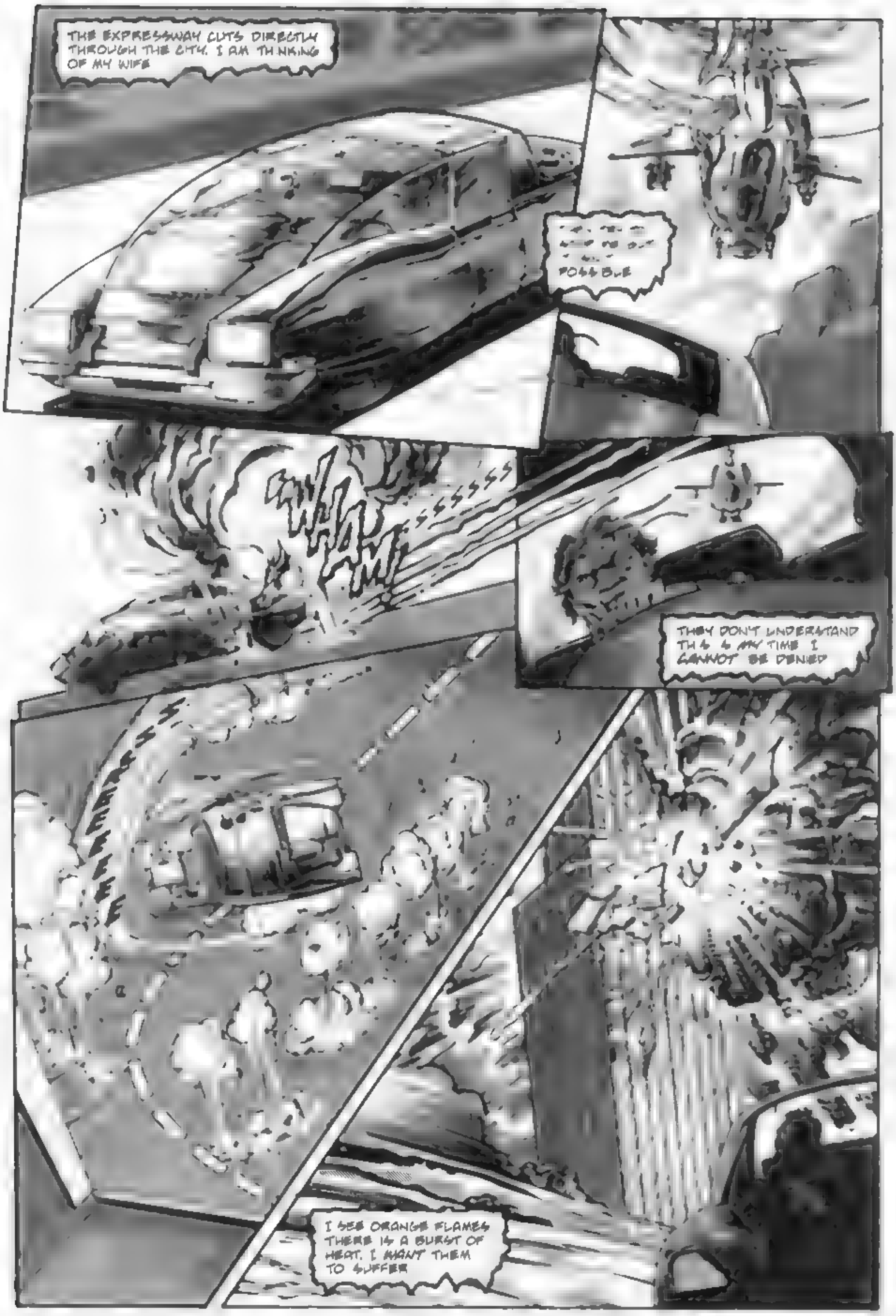
LEATHER SEATS--SMOOTH, SOFT-- I SMELL HOT OZONE AS I ACCELERATE

SPAK SPAK SPAK

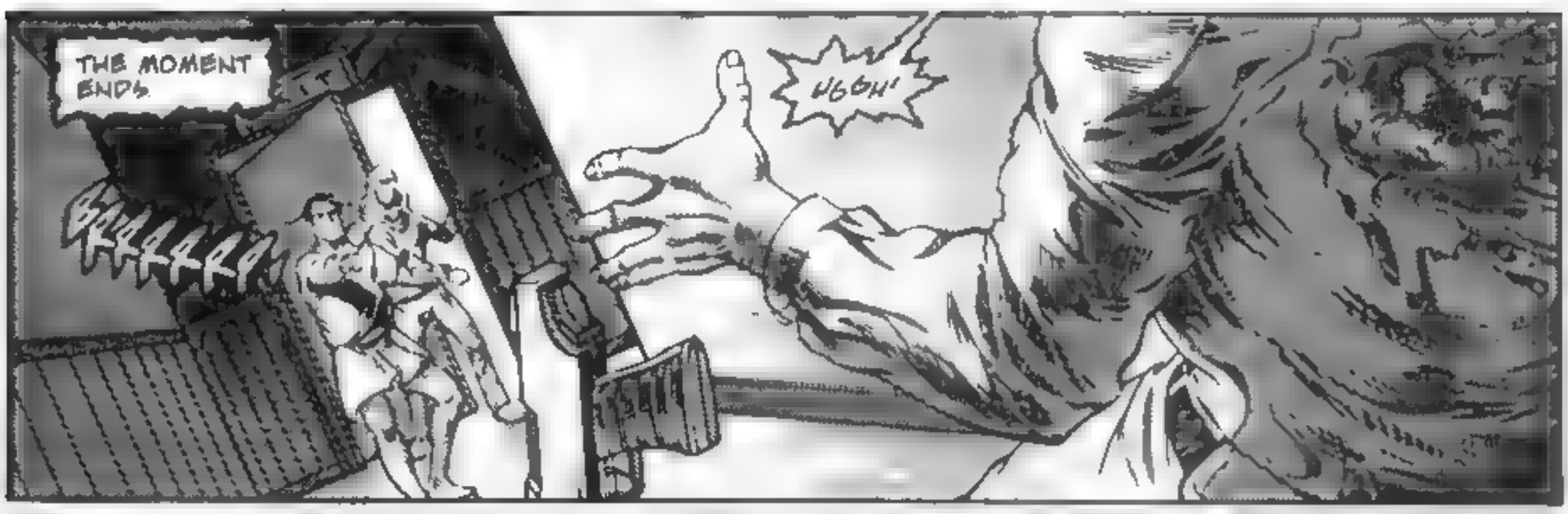
DEATH IS ALL AROUND ME

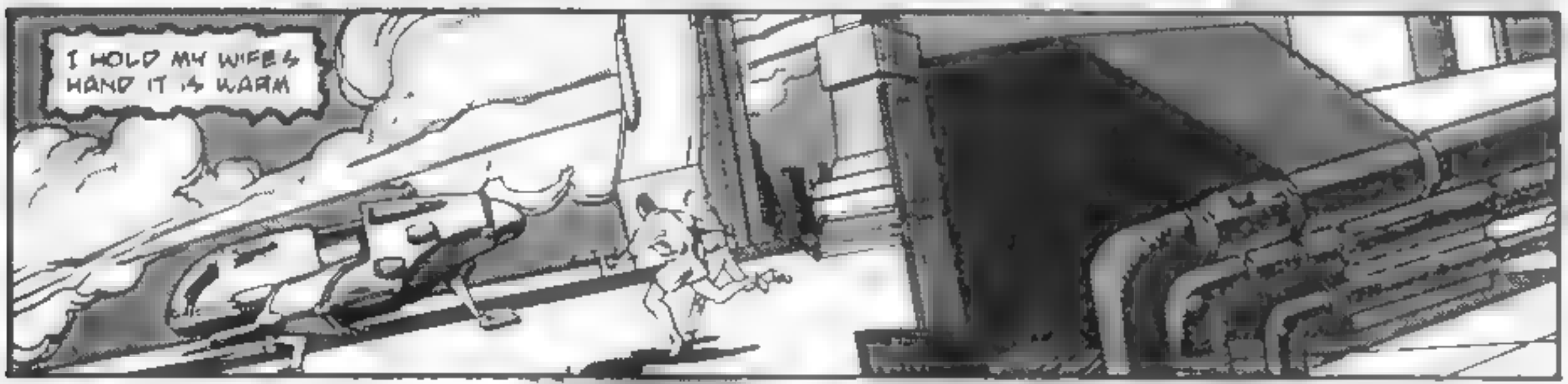
THUMP

I FEEL JUMPER... ALIVE


THE EXPRESSWAY CUTS DIRECTLY THROUGH THE CITY. I AM THINKING OF MY WIFE
POSSIBLE
WHAM
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT AT ANY TIME I CANNOT BE DENIED
I SEE ORANGE FLAMES THERE IS A BURST OF HEAT. I WANT THEM TO SUFFER

THE BUILDING IS AN OLD FRIEND. REAL FLOWERS OUT FRONT THEY SMELL LIKE EXPENSIVE PERFUME
I ENTER THE ELEVATOR THE BUTTONS ARE SMOOTH, COOL PLASTIC THE BURNISHED METAL PLATE GLOWS IN THE DIM GREEN LIGHT
SO CLOSE. I ACHE FOR HER TOUCH
BAM BAM
JAMES?
WE TOUCH. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I UNDERSTAND PERFECTION
GET H.M!


THE MOMENT ENDS
UGGH!


I HOLD MY WIFE'S HAND IT IS WARM

WE HAVE NOWHERE TO GO. I AIM FOR THE SUN. THE HEAT IS A BLANKET. I FORCE THE SHIP TO FLY HIGHER
I KNOW THIS BECAUSE I AM THERE.
THE CONTROL PANEL GLOWS A HUNDRED COLORS
I TURN TOWARDS MY WIFE SHE IS BEAUTIFUL
MY GOD THE SUN - IT'S SO BRIGHT

OH GOD NO
FOR CHRIST SAKE, HOLD HIM DOWN!
I'M TRYING! WE NEED SOME TRANKS IN HERE, NOW!
WATCH IT! HE'S REACHING FOR YOUR GUN!
YARRGGHH--!
OH JESUS--! IT'S-- IT'S COMING OUT--!
DAMN IT! GET HIM DOWN!
MY GOD HIS VITAL SIGNS ARE GOING OFF THE SCALE--!
I'M GOING IN--I WANT TO SEE THE BIRTH FIRSTHAND!

I'D FEEL BETTER IF YOU WAITED WITH ME.
WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?
IT'S HARD TO TELL. HE SEEMS TO BE--FIGHTING
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I JUST WANT TO BE--PART OF IT
ERGGHH!
WHA-- DO YOU MEAN FIGHTING IT?
CAN HE HURT IT--?
WE DON'T KNOW--NOBODY KNOWS! STAND AWAY FOR GOD'S SAKE!
WHAT HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? THIS ENTIRE PROJECT DEPENDS ON YOU--!
WANT T--?

YOU--
CAN--
HAVE IT--
YAAAAGHH!
HORNER!
AAAHHH--!
YAAAAAAAAAAA
YOU STUPID SON OF A BITCH--YOU'RE EXPOSING THE ENTIRE LAB--!
ALERT
HELP-- ME--!

NO!

FOW!

BR-R-R-R-R-P!

continued next issue!

BUG HUNT

c/o Dark Horse Comics
2008 S.E. Monroe St.
Milwaukie, OR 97222

I'll try to keep my comments short this time out to make room for as many of your letters and we have space for:

Dear Dark Horse,

I love your ***Aliens*** books. So far I have read ***Aliens*** #2 and ***Dark Horse Presents*** #24. Please make ***Aliens*** a never-ending series.

I like the way you make pages black and white. It adds a lot of detail. But please keep the cover in color. I would like to see more ***Aliens*** specials in ***Dark Horse Presents***, too.

Your loyal fan,

Jason Gilman
Gainesville, GA

It's nice to know our hard work is appreciated. All of us here at Dark Horse take pride in our ability to make comics pages black and white. Granted, it's a lot of extra effort to take all that color out, but we'll keep doing it as long as we can. Right now, **Aliens** *is just scheduled as a six-issue series, Jason, but we're always working on new ideas, so keep watching this space for further news!*

Dear Dark Horse,

At first I didn't know Dark Horse Comics existed. I was caught up with Marvel and MTV! But, one day, as I was watching MTV and reading *X-Men* #142, I glanced out of the corner of my eye, and next to *Alf* #1 I saw an American Comics catalog with ***Aliens*** #1 listed—$1.95 (hot) by DH! Then I thought of Newt yelling, "Ripley!" from the movie ***Aliens***, but thought "No way!"

Later, I picked up an issue of *Comics Buyer's Guide*, and they had a paragraph about the ***Aliens*** comic! The next day I went to The Fun Zone (they have most comics and sell baseball cards, too) and bought issues #1 and #2. Now I'm reading ***Aliens***, ***Godzilla***, and ***Dark Horse Presents***! And once I get a hold of ***Concrete***, ***The American***, ***Mr. Monster*** and ***Roachmill***, I'll probably read them, too!

Okay. Comments? You betcha! ***Aliens*** #1 was so great I bought #2, and it was great, too! Too bad Ripley and Bishop aren't back. By the way, what happened to them?

I hope that this becomes an unlimited series—with all of the survivors like Ripley, Bishop, Hicks, Newt and Jones the cat! Is this going to be a movie? I hope so!

Well, until Jones turns into an Alien...Make mine Dark Horse!

Chris Winkler
Covina, CA

And another fan joins the growing ranks of Dark Horse readers! All right, Chris!

As for the fates of Ripley and Bishop, well, time will tell. The story's just getting started—you don't want to know all of the answers before you've had a chance to savor the mystery, do you?

Dear Dark Horse,

Aliens is one of my favorite movies. After the first time I saw it I asked myself, "What more could I ask for?" Well, I spoke too soon. After awhile I heard that Dark Horse had published a sequel to ***Aliens***. I quickly rushed to my comics store and purchased a copy of ***Aliens*** #1—and loved it.

You guys are doing a great job with this. The artwork and the storyline are superb. As a matter of fact, when I was at my favorite comic book store to purchase a copy of ***Aliens*** #2, I heard the store manager say that Aliens is probably the best black and white comic book right now. And I agree. I'm waiting for issue #3 to come out. I'll have to buy it quick before it sells out.

Well, I just thought you should know this. Keep up the good work, guys!

Aliens Fan,

J.M.

Wait no more, J.M.—issue #3 is here. We're trying to make sure we print enough copies for everyone who wants one, but it's not as easy as you might think (witness the multiple printings of the first two issues)! One store owner called us wanting more copies, saying he couldn't figure out how a "black and white, 'independent' comic" could be outselling his Marvel and DCs. He said he'd "never had this problem before." Problem? More retailers should have such problems.

Dear Dark Horse,

Before picking up ***Aliens*** #1, I only read DC and a handful of Marvel titles, but that has changed.

When I first saw ***Aliens*** #1, I thought it was an adaptation of the film. Then I discovered it was continuing from where the second film left off. By the time I finished with issue #1, I was hooked. I loved how Hicks and Newt have been developed, and the black and white format is a nice touch. It gets even better as "the plot thickens" in ***Aliens*** #2. I can't wait for the next four issues!

Keep up the good work!

Mark Kawalec
Linden, NJ

You got it, Mark!

Dear Bug Hunt Crew,

I've never done this, ever. I've been reading comics for about eight years now, and there is a "new wrinkle": Dark Horse Comics. Top of the line stories, great art, and finally, the coup de grace: ***Aliens***! My single favorite movie was ***Alien***, and

then ***Aliens*** [the movie] came out and soon after you people picked up the story and carried on admirably.

The art crew deserves a raise (even if they think they're getting enough now). I don't please easily, but not only have you captured the characters and the atmosphere, but the most important aspect, the suspense—and that's hard to do with the printed word.

I would just like to say, "thank you," in what is my first, and probably last, letter to a comic book company.

By the way, I spent two weeks making my own alien xenomorph door poster, and I open up to the back of #2 and find I can just order one...oh, well, no regrets. Marvel and DC better watch out, Dark Horse is gonna knock 'em down a few pegs.

Lane "Styles" O'Neil
Jeffersonville, PA

Thanks for writing, Lane, but don't stop now! Don't make expressing your views a once-in-a-lifetime experience! Besides, we count on our readers to help keep us on the right track!

Hey, Mark [*Nelson, Verheiden or both?*]

Aliens #2 was executed so well that it managed to send an actual chill down my spine.

And, as much as I love them, no comic books have ever done this to me before...until now.

Congratulations.

Uncle Elvis (Orten)
Dawson Springs, KY

Great. Wait'll you see issue #4, Elvis!

Bug Huntees,

When I read that Dark Horse was going to do a "continuation" of the movie ***Aliens***, I immediately told myself it was worth looking over. Having just finished issue #2, I'm patting you *and* me on the back. You for putting out a story that (in my humble opinion) is putting its predecessor to shame, and me for having such good taste! If the rest of this story is a spine-chilling as the first two issues were (and I'm talking deep-frozen backbone!), maybe 20th Century Fox should consider your story for the next movie. I'm sure people would talk about it for a long time to come!

Until next issue, may all your eggs remain unhatched, and may all of your aliens remain tiny and stuffed full.

Stay frosty!

Rick Rinehart
Logansport, IN

Thanks for your compliments, Rick! However, I have to say, as great as I think this story is, it couldn't happen without the fine groundwork laid in the two motion pictures. And from what we hear in the "trades," Fox has some pretty chilling ideas of their own for the third film.

Okay, that's all we have room for this time, but we look forward to receiving all of your comments.
—Randy

Next issue: *Things go from bad to worse.*